

CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 Cancelled.

Claim 23. New A method of operating a communication station (MS) adapted to transmit a plurality of signals simultaneously at respective power levels, the method comprising:

transmitting one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) simultaneously at a specified maximum combined transmit power level (P_{max});

wherein , in response to a received signal, reducing the transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) and transmitting simultaneously with the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) an additional one of a second signal (ACK or NACK) at a respective second specified power level (P_A or P_N) and a third signal (NACK or ACK) at a respective third specified power level (P_N or P_A), wherein the second specified power level (P_A or P_N) exceeds the third specified power level (P_N or P_A); wherein the reduction in transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) corresponds to the second specified power level (P_A or P_N) irrespective of whether the additional signal is the second signal (ACK or NACK) or the third signal (NACK or ACK), such that when the additional signal is the third signal (NACK or ACK) the combined transmit power level is less than the specified maximum combined transmit power level (P_{max}).

Claim 24. New A method of operating a communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) are transmitted in first frames or time slots and the additional signals are transmitted in second frames or time slots, wherein the boundaries between the first frames or time slots are not coincident with the boundaries between the second frames or time slots, wherein the reduction in transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) commences at the first frame or time slot boundary immediately preceding the transmission of the additional signal.

Claim 25. New A method of operating a communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 23 , wherein the second signal (ACK or NACK) is a positive acknowledgement and the third signal (NACK or ACK) is a negative acknowledgement.

Claim 26. New A method of operating a communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 23 , wherein the signals are spread spectrum signals.

Claim 27. New A communication station (MS) adapted to transmit a plurality of signals simultaneously at respective power levels, comprising:

transceiver means (38) for transmitting one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) simultaneously at a specified maximum combined transmit power level (P_{max}), for receiving signals, and for, in response to a received signal, transmitting simultaneously with the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) an additional one of a second signal (ACK or NACK) and a third signal (NACK or ACK);

control means (30) for controlling the transmitted power level of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) and the additional signal (ACK, NACK);

wherein the control means (34) is adapted to, in response to the received signal, reduce the transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) and to set the transmit power of the additional signal, if the additional signal is the second signal (ACK or NACK), to a respective second specified power level (P_A or P_N) and, if the additional signal is the third signal (NACK or ACK), to a respective third specified power level (P_N or P_A), wherein the second specified power level (P_A or P_N) exceeds the third specified power level (P_N or P_A); wherein the reduction in transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) corresponds to the second specified power level (P_A or P_A) irrespective of whether the additional signal is the second signal (ACK or NACK) or the third signal (NACK or ACK), such that when the additional signal is the third signal (NACK or ACK) the combined transmit

Claim 28. New A communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the control means (34) is adapted to transmit the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) in first frames or time slots and to transmit the additional signals in second frames or time slots, wherein the boundaries between the first frames or time slots are not coincident with the boundaries between the second frames or time slots, wherein the reduction in transmit power of the one or more first signals (DPCCH, DPDCH) commences at the first frame or time slot boundary immediately preceding the transmission of the additional signal.

Claim 29. New A communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the second signal (ACK or NACK) is a positive acknowledgement and the third signal (NACK or ACK) is a negative acknowledgement.

Claim 30. New A communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the signals are spread spectrum signals.

Claim 31. New A communication system comprising a communication station (MS) as claimed in Claim 27 and another station (BS) having a transceiver for communication with the communication station (MS).